

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/GB2004/001565

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
 IPC 7 A61B5/0484 A61B5/04

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 A61B

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 143 081 A (YOUNG WISE ET AL) 1 September 1992 (1992-09-01) column 1, line 30 -column 20, line 26; figure 8	15,16
X	US 2003/009111 A1 (CORY JOAN M ET AL) 9 January 2003 (2003-01-09) paragraph '0002! - paragraph '0070!; figures 1,2,6	15,16
A	DE 101 04 153 A (SIEMENS AUDIOLOGISCHE TECHNIK) 6 June 2002 (2002-06-06) paragraph '0009! - paragraph '0023! --- -/-	15,16

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

28 July 2004

Date of mailing of the international search report

06/08/2004

Name and mailing address of the ISA

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 5 919 142 A (BOONE KEVIN GRAHAM ET AL) 6 July 1999 (1999-07-06) cited in the application column 2, line 65 -column 7, line 59; figure 1	15,16
A	HOLDER D S: "IMPEDANCE CHANGES DURING THE COMPOUND NERVE ACTION POTENTIAL: IMPLICATIONS FOR IMPEDANCE IMAGING OF NEURONAL DEPOLARISATION IN THE BRAIN" MEDICAL AND BIOLOGICAL ENGINEERING AND COMPUTING, PETER PEREGRINUS LTD. STEVENAGE, GB, vol. 30, no. 2, 1 March 1992 (1992-03-01), pages 140-146, XP000271685 ISSN: 0140-0118 the whole document	15,16

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Box II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of Item 2 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☒ Claims Nos.: 1-14, 17
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210
2. ☒ Claims Nos.: 18-21
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this International application, as follows:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box II.1

Claims Nos.: 1-14,17

Rule 39.1(iv) PCT - Diagnostic method practised on the human or animal body: The claimed methods encompass the steps of data collection (voltage measurements), the comparison with reference measurements and a deductive step for diagnosis (determine normal or abnormal response of the nervous system). Therefore, these methods are considered to constitute a diagnostic method in the sense of Rule 39.1(iv) PCT.

Continuation of Box II.2

Claims Nos.: 18-21

Claims 18 and 19: The claimed subject-matter (data carrier or computer) is defined merely by certain method steps. Because there are no apparatus features defined within these claims which enable the device to carry out the method steps, it is unclear (Article 6 PCT) which apparatus features might be involved. Therefore, these claims are so unclear that a meaningful search cannot be carried out (Article 17(2)(a)(ii) PCT).
Claims 20 and 21: The claims may not rely on references to the description and drawings (Rule 6.2(a) PCT), because such references render the claims unclear as to which method steps or apparatus features are meant (Article 6 PCT). Therefore a meaningful search of these claims is impossible (Article 17(2)(a)(ii) PCT).

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims, or parts of claims, relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure.

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Information on patent family members

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Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 5143081	A	01-09-1992	NONE	
US 2003009111	A1	09-01-2003	CA 2449567 A1 EP 1401332 A2 WO 02100247 A2	19-12-2002 31-03-2004 19-12-2002
DE 10104153	A	06-06-2002	DE 10104153 A1	06-06-2002
US 5919142	A	06-07-1999	DE 69603729 D1 DE 69603729 T2 EP 0833585 A1 WO 9700642 A1 JP 11507858 T	16-09-1999 27-01-2000 08-04-1998 09-01-1997 13-07-1999